

CHALLENGE



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Reformist Betrayal in Brazil

Last month's impeachment of Brazil's president, Dilma Rousseff, is a sharp reminder that capitalist reforms and sell-out politicians can never serve the needs of the international working class. The political coup against Rousseff and her fake-left, deceptively named "Workers' Party" points to an escalation of the fight between two camps of Brazilian finance capitalists (see CHALLENGE, 4/16): the pro-China wing represented by Rousseff, and the pro-U.S. wing that orchestrated her ouster and installed her replacement, Michel Temer.

Regardless of the outcome of Rousseff's trial in the country's Senate, the workers of Brazil are sure to be the losers. Like arch-imperialist Hillary Clinton and gutter racist Donald Trump in the U.S., Rousseff and Temer are two sides of the ruling-class coin. Along with phony "socialists" like French President Francois Hollande or failed U.S. presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, these liberal reformers are all willing agents of the capitalist bosses. Until they are unmasked, our class will stay bound by the exploiters' chains.

Brazil: Imperialist Prize

With a population of more than 200 million, Brazil is the largest nation and largest economy in Latin America. It lends critical military support to U.S. imperialism, with a lead role in providing troops for the United Nations MINUSTAH forces occupying Haiti since 2004.

A financial, industrial and agricultural powerhouse, Brazil ranks first in the world for exports of sugar cane, coffee and oranges, second for iron ore and soybeans, third for beef cattle.

The country's enormous wealth is matched by enormous inequality, racist and sexist oppression, and the staggering poverty of Brazil's working class—"well above the norm," as the World Bank notes, "for a middle-income country." Child labor and human trafficking remain rampant. In the rural North and Northeast regions, one of four children under age five suffers from chronic malnutrition (worldbank.org). In the urban favela shantytowns, where residents are predominantly Black or "mixed-race" (like 51 percent of the country's population overall), murderous cocaine gangs operate with impunity and police kill children as a matter of routine (New York Times, 5/21/15).

As the U.S. bosses "pivot" to Asia to confront China in the South China Sea, China's ruling capitalists are challenging the dominance of U.S. imperialism in Latin America, which dates to the mid-19th century. In Brazil, the biggest prize is offshore oil. In 2014, Brazil pumped 2.95 million barrels of petroleum per day, nearly as much as Iraq, Iran or the United Arab Emirates (U.S. Energy Information Administration). Bil-

lions of barrels in potential reserves lay off the Brazilian coast, ready to be tapped by the state-run oil operation, Petrobras, the largest company in Latin America.

In 2009, in exchange for oil import rights, China invested \$10 billion in Petrobras. By 2012, Brazil's annual trade with China had swelled to \$75 billion, as compared to \$6.7 billion nine years earlier (BBC, 3/27/13). Along with inroads by the Chinese bosses with other fake-leftist regimes in Venezuela and Bolivia, the rise of their influence in Brazil forced U.S. imperialism into action. (Another unreliable Latin American regime, in Honduras, was eliminated in 2009 in a military coup defended by Hillary Clinton, then U.S. Secretary of State.)

Lies of the Workers' Party

The Workers' Party came to power in Brazil in 2002 under populist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Lula was adept at bribing workers with crumbs from Brazil's oil wealth to fund the Bolsa Familia, a conditional cash transfer program that gave poor families an average of \$54 (U.S.) per month and temporarily lifted millions out of extreme poverty. Meanwhile, a faction of Brazilian

bosses used the Workers' Party to pacify the country's militant trade union movement and win allegiance from Black and indigenous workers. They coopted the anti-racist slogan, "Outro mundo e possivel": "Another world is possible."

In 2010, these bosses found a seemingly perfect misleader to succeed Lula as president: Dilma Rousseff. A former guerrilla fighter, she represented the many thousands of workers and students who were abused, tortured and executed after a U.S.-backed, anti-communist coup in 1964 ushered in an openly fascist military regime that ruled Brazil for two decades.

Behind the scenes, however, the real winner in Rousseff's election was the Chinese ruling class, by then Brazil's top trading partner. In 2013, capitalizing on the instability that followed the financial crisis of 2008, China agreed to swap billions of dollars of its currency as a reserve against future crises—a direct challenge to the U.S. dollar (BBC). Alarmed by this development, U.S.-connected finance capitalists in São Paulo struck back in the 2014 Brazilian presidential elections. Wealthy

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JUNETEENTH PERPETUATES RACIST MYTHS

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OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

► the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Reformist Betrayal in Brazil

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ruling-class families threw their support behind Marina Silva, the Socialist Party candidate. As Maria Alice Setubal, heiress to the Itaú Unibanco banking fortune, the largest financial conglomerate in the Southern hemisphere, explained, “The market is against Dilma” (Bloomberg, 9/14/14).

Return of the Right

While Rousseff narrowly won re-election, the Workers’ Party was growing hated by many workers. Prior to the 2014 World Cup, working-class neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro suffered wholesale evictions and occupation by Brazil’s military police. Workers and students responded with violent mass rebellions, strikes and demonstrations in more than 100 cities (The Guardian, 6/12/14). Unrest intensified in 2015, when global oil prices collapsed and Brazilian health care and education were slashed in the name of “austerity.”

With the sell-out Rousseff administration on the ropes, China’s investments and loans became crucial lifelines for the contracting Brazilian economy. In May 2015, three Chinese banks invested \$10 billion in Petrobras. In February 2016, Petrobras received yet another \$10 billion from the China Development Bank (Bloomberg). The pro-U.S. wing of Brazilian finance capital began grumbling in public. Two months later, Rousseff was impeached.

Rousseff chaired the Petrobras board when scores of executives and politicians—including her mentor, Lula da Silva, and several of her most vehement accusers—were apparently using the company as their personal piggy bank. Even so, the massive bribery and kickback scandal at Petrobras, known as Operation Car Wash, has yet to implicate her. The impeachment campaign is based on minor budgetary irregularities.

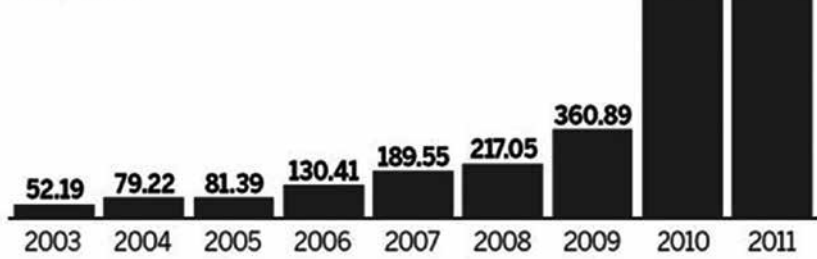
Still, few observers in Sao Paulo expect Rousseff to win back her office in the Senate trial. The fix is in; the pro-U.S. bosses, many of them active backers of the old military fascist regime, are back in charge. Acting President Michel Temer was an embassy informant for U.S. intelligence (Counterpunch, 5/26/16). He has named an all-white, all-male cabinet. The new finance minister, Henrique Meirelles, once headed BankBoston, a subsidiary of the Rockefeller-controlled Bank of America, which is in turn closely interlocked with the Setúbal-controlled Itaú Unibanco. Another top financial advisor, Paolo Leme, chairs the Brazil division of Goldman Sachs, the source of Hillary Clinton’s six-figure lecture fees.

Yet another Temer ally is Brazil’s richest man, Jorge Paul Lemann, who owns Heinz Ketchup and Burger King and is close to Warren Buffett, a leading figure in the main wing of U.S. finance capital. Lemann’s apparatus organized street protest groups to rally for Rousseff’s impeachment (Counterpunch, 5/4/16).

Last year, Brazil’s economy shrank by 3.7 percent. Evictions and attacks on workers have continued as the bosses there prepare for the 2016 Summer Olym-

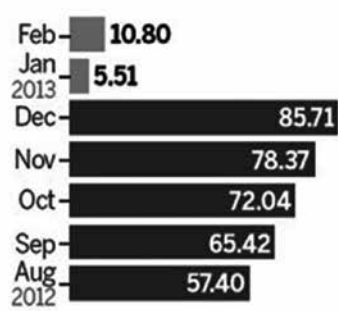
CHINA'S INVESTMENT IN BRAZIL

Unit: \$ million



CUMULATIVE VALUE OF CHINA-BRAZIL TRADE

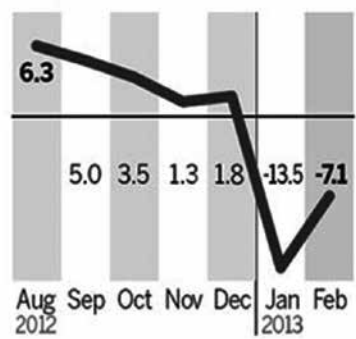
Unit: \$ billion



Source: Wind Information

GROWTH IN CHINA-BRAZIL TRADE

Unit: percent



LI YI / CHINA DAILY

pics. The new reform on the table is “pension reform”—a frontal attack on retired workers.

Brazil's History of Fightback

From the 1500s, the workers and resources of Brazil have been crucial to the rise of capitalism and imperialism. The colonizing Portuguese bosses named the land “Brazil” after their original source of New World profits: exports of brazilwood to Europe. With the genocidal enslavement of Africans, the local rulers amassed wealth from sugar, coffee, mining, and—after gaining independence from Portugal in 1822—industry. All along, slaves, peasants and workers faced down Brazilian capitalism’s barbaric “progress” with mass rebellions and insurrections. Fightback is a proud tradition in Brazil.

Progressive Labor Party fights to earn the leadership of the masses of Brazil’s industrial, agricultural and service workers. We fight to be the successors of the rebelling soldiers, industrial workers, and landless Black and indigenous farmers who built the fledgling Communist Party of Brazil into a fighting mass movement. In the 1930s, Communist-led women and men workers waged revolutionary armed struggle against the pro-Nazi Brazilian bosses, a history whose music has survived the intervening decades of brutal repression. While the old communist movement was defeated, the masses have never stopped fighting capitalism and imperialism.

Make History: Fight for Communism

Today, PLP stands with and supports the hundreds of thousands of workers and students battling police in the streets of Brazil’s cities against the openly racist, anti-working class government of Temer. But embracing Rousseff leads only into the arms of the Chinese imperialists. Like reformist parties everywhere, the Workers’ Party long ago sold out the working class.

Another world is possible—communism, where the working class runs society, not the capitalists. We call on workers to leave the dead-end road of elections and take the other path instead—to communist revolution. We call on workers all over to smash all borders and unite with their international class sisters and brothers. Help lead us and build a mass, fighting Party to defeat capitalism. The struggle continues, fight for communism! A luta continua, luta pelo comunismo!✊

Patient-Worker Solidarity

HIV, Straight Outta Capitalism

LOS ANGELES, June 14—HIV treatment has become a multi-billion dollar industry that includes medication options as simple as one pill a day with very few side effects. Treatment and cure is limited to what is profitable for the bosses, not what is necessary for working-class health. Due to the inherent nature of capitalism, the benefits of any medical advances are countries where these drugs can be purchased at a profit. The bulk of the world's workers most afflicted have no access to these medications.

Today, there are drugs that can prevent HIV infections. Yet in the U.S., the world's most vicious imperialist empire, mini-epidemics occur which disproportionately affect the Black and Latin communities. Because of capitalist problems — unemployment, underemployment, homelessness, drug use, mental illness and the sexist oppression against homosexual workers combined with the destructive force of racist mass incarceration of the Black and Latin communities — HIV/AIDS makes caring for those newly infected with HIV or already in care particularly more difficult.

This is why co-workers and a communist from an HIV clinic organized a patient-staff dinner and showed a movie "Straight Outta Compton" where we raised anti-racist politics.

Our organizing has been ongoing modestly at our clinic. Throughout nearly two years, our clinic raised money for the family of Ezell Ford, a 25-year-old Black man murdered by the LAPD the same time as Mike Brown in Ferguson. His mother visited our clinic and brought us sandwiches. Since then, conversations around racism, police murder, the elections and capitalism are commonplace. Two co-workers came to Progressive Labor Party's recent May Day dinner.

Another co-worker who attended a pre-May Day cookout helped organize a recent patient-staff dinner and movie night. Twenty patients and four staff came. More had originally signed on to come but unfortunately it coincided with an award ceremony for our

medical director. Nonetheless, it was a great first start for an ongoing series cementing patient-worker unity!

Build Multiracial Patient-Worker Unity

Research has shown that when patients are active in their social networks providing more positive interactions (no drug use, no oppression against homosexual people or HIV-related stigma), patients tend to solidify their HIV care. The empirical evidence has caught up to what communists have been building from the get-go: multiracial patient-worker solidarity.

Despite its reformist politics, we chose the movie "Straight Outta Compton" (see CHALLENGE 9/30/15), it's pertinent to many of our patients who were raised, and still live in the same area, grew up on the music, and have been dealing with the same racist police terror. The communist in the clinic made a short introductory speech, drawing connections between the Ferguson rebellion and the 1992 Los Angeles rebellion following the racist acquittal of the cops who brutally beat Rodney King, a Black taxi worker.

Many patients related what they were doing during the rebellions. All related to the plight in the movie of Eazy E who dies of HIV/AIDS (HIV is the immunodeficiency virus that can lead to the AIDS syndrome and interfere with the body's ability to fight infections.) After a brief discussion we enjoyed each other's company and everyone was thankful for the event. Patients were asked to write down activities we could do together. We all bonded a little bit more, beginning to break the divide of "staff" and "patient."

Racist, Sexist Politics Breeds HIV

There should be a huge difference between those infected with HIV today and those who were infected decades ago. Prior to antiretroviral therapy, a cocktail of drugs used to prevent the growth of the virus, HIV infection meant death from some obscure infection or cancer as their immune system inevitably declined.

Even with the first generation of antiretroviral drugs, saving lives came with multiple drug toxicities that caused organ damage and included taking up to 25 pills a day, which now have netted billions for the pharmaceutical bosses.

Cure the Working Class of Capitalism

At our clinic in South Los Angeles (between Watts and Compton counties) there are hundreds of mostly Black and Latin men, women, young and old, infected and newly infected individuals. Like many HIV clinics, in addition to clinicians, we have a medical staff of social workers, case workers, therapists and psychiatrists who address numerous social issues. Most can be handled on a case-by-case basis. However, this rarely leads to any long-term changes never has societal effects.

Social work helps save lives, but the blame for HIV/AIDS is always heaped on the individual. The focus of attacking HIV/AIDS should be geared towards attacking capitalism. Its constant exploitation and racist, sexist oppression leaves working-class bodies vulnerable to disease.

No matter how hard we work for our patients, as long as capitalism exists our individual efforts will always fall short. Best-case scenario for our patients: we retain a patient in care; they stay on HIV medications and thus improve their immune function so that they don't die of AIDS.

However, we're finding that while some don't develop AIDS, as our patients live longer, they will not only be victimized by other preventable medical ailments — from heart disease to cancer — they tend to get these illnesses at younger ages. Less than 25 percent of those we know to be HIV positive remains in care, and even less controlled on HIV medications.

Ultimately the disease of capitalism wins out if we don't organize to overthrow it. Our movie showing and dinner was a step towards building the kind of working-class relationships necessary to eradicate HIV/AIDS and capitalism. It's one and the same fight!✊

Letter

Walkout at Texas Bottling Factory

Back in December I wrote an article on "Base-Building and Resilience" based on work at my job, a bottling company. Today I write as an unemployed worker who coordinated a walkout.

After months of late nights and exhausted days, my coworkers and I had had enough of the lousy working conditions. We had won back being provided with free water and got the company to make minor repairs to our workplace, but many were still frustrated. Since December, many workers had been fired or had quit after finding "better" jobs. A workforce of 19 had dwindled to 9; only 4 of whom had been on the job 5 months before. This low amount of workers caused the bosses to panic. They started to speed up productivity using threats and lies and kept people on the job 12 to 16 hours a day to get the trucks loaded.

As for myself, I had been injured on the job so was only supposed to do 6 hours of work; yet I was forced to stay longer working the forklift since the bosses had the forklift drivers doing the loading. Although many of us were written up, we struggled against these attacks. When the bosses insisted that they were looking into raises for us, "the hard workers who stuck it out," we would all just laugh and say "yeah right."

So one Wednesday the bosses had a meeting where more lies were fed to us, and instead of eating them up, one of my co-workers stood up and said, "Bet if we walked out we would get some raises." The supervisor immediately called the meeting off and sent us back to work. I started asking everyone their opinion on the action, how they would react, if they would join, and what they would like our demands to be. This was over a span of 3 hours. To my surprise, everyone was in agreement on two demands, a raise and more manpower, whether it be temps or hurrying the hiring process.

Keep in mind, nobody working in the plant at this time was receiving CHALLENGE and none of these workers knew of my communist politics. Suddenly we were all called into the office and challenged. The supervisor told us to drop the talk of walking out and get back to work. We refused, voicing our criticism and demands. They told us to be realistic. We insisted that we were. We demanded the head of the whole plant be there within an hour to hear our demands or we would walk. So we waited. An hour passed, and we regrouped on the work floor discussing the demands and our allegiance to each other. Everybody was pumped and ready to get this done.

We noticed the branch manager in the office. So we marched in with our heads high and our ambitions even higher. Then it happened. Many who were chosen to speak to our demands froze. It turned into me and one other guy arguing back and forth with the bosses. They kept saying that they couldn't do anything: it was too late in the day; the demands weren't realistic; maybe it would be possible, but it would take time; months or years. I immediately changed the situation and said we were walking out. Four of us walked out of the office, but five held back. I turned around and said "let's go" to the others, who had earlier said they were going to walk, but all I got back was "I don't know." I turned my back and left with the 3 workers who didn't hesitate.

We got outside and waited for the others, but they didn't come out. While we waited we talked about how happy we were to stand together and how strikes were truly the only way workers could get respect. I gave them CHALLENGE, and we all shook hands and left. An hour later, I received a phone call from a co-worker who had stayed in the plant, and he informed me that four more, including him, had walked out a little later. They had gotten scared, but realized that walking out with us

was the right decision. I expressed my agreement and the importance of solidarity between workers.

The next morning I went to work. On my way in, I was intercepted by the head of HR who informed me that I had received two write-ups, that I was no longer needed, and that I had to leave. This was what I expected. I contacted a co-worker who had not arrived yet; he had come in a little later, and informed that no one else returned to work that day so he left. But on Friday everyone but me was back; so I was the only one fired. I did stick out, leading the fight for the water and repairs and initially the walk out, but that was a risk worth taking to demonstrate working-class power.

Though the walkout didn't succeed in getting our demands completely met, a large group of temps were brought in to help with the long days being worked. This walkout was too spontaneous and poorly coordinated. Other departments within the plant weren't consolidated and no plan was made on how to push it further. Another weakness was me being the only one in a position of leadership since now that I am gone, the bosses will work to erase any trace of my influence over the workers.

I plan on maintaining contact with those who walked out to the best of my abilities. For my next step, I'm not too sure. I was already in the process of moving into another industry. In the meantime, base-building and increasing the membership are my main goals, which never changes.

A small dim light has shown itself at a bottling plant in Texas. The dark night will not live forever. The working class is strong, we just need to be organized enough, mass enough, and ambitious enough to show it to them. Here's to the international struggle for communist revolution! Till the next time my comrades.✊

The Rise and Fall of Muhammad Ali

When Muhammad Ali, arguably the greatest boxer of all time, died on June 3, he was praised as a great “American hero” by the bosses’ media, including many who’d once cheered on the U.S. government as it tried to destroy him. Ali’s great historical moment came in 1966, when he stood up against genocide, inspired the anti-Vietnam War movement, and refused induction into the U.S. military with the immortal words: “I ain’t got nothing against no Viet Cong [the communist guerrillas in South Vietnam]. No Viet Cong never called me n-----.”

Later on, after the bosses stripped him of his heavyweight title and for three years blocked him from pursuing his livelihood, Ali clarified his position at a fair housing rally in his hometown of Louisville. Showing a keen grasp of the connection between racism inside the U.S. and U.S. imperialism in Asia, he said:

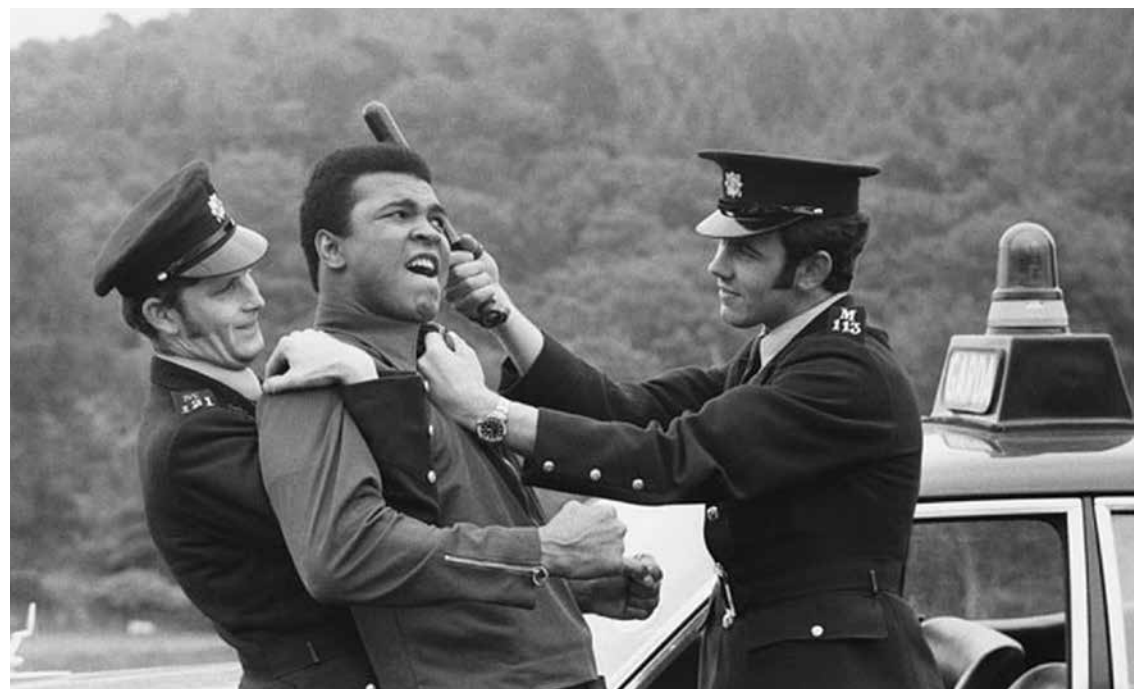
Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights? No I’m not going 10,000 miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters of the darker people the world over. This is the day when such evils must come to an end. I have been warned that to take such a stand would cost me millions of dollars. But I have said it once and I will say it again. The real enemy of my people is here.

Substitute “capitalist rulers” for “white slave masters,” and Ali was right on target.

Unfortunately, Ali had already taken a wrong turn by joining the Nation of Islam (NOI), a black separatist, pro-capitalist Muslim organization. In 1963, after his friend Malcolm X left the organization, he stayed with the NOI and its ruthless gangster leader, Elijah Muhammad. Two years later, NOI members killed Malcolm X. To his credit, Ali later acknowledged his mistake: “Turning my back on Malcolm was one of the mistakes that I regret most in my life. I wish I’d been able to tell Malcolm I was sorry, that he was right about so many things. But he was killed before I got the chance. He was a visionary ahead of us all.”

Ali’s Limits

When Ali was part of the worldwide mass movement against U. S. imperialism in Vietnam, he was unbeatable. He gained tremendous



strength from the mass heroism displayed by hundreds of millions of workers and youth and, in turn, inspired those millions to deeper resistance. But when the mass movement collapsed, Ali’s celebrity and wealth isolated him from the working class. He drifted into a capitalist outlook.

In his later years, as Ali stopped fighting the rulers and became a defanged “humanitarian” reformer, the capitalist class showered him with endorsements. Wheaties, Pizza Hut, Louis Vuitton, Porsche, Adidas, Under Armour, and Toyota all came on board. Ali made up to \$7 million a year and left an estate worth between \$60 and \$80 million.

He kept up his part of the deal. In 1984, Ali endorsed the racist union-basher Ronald Reagan for president. In 2001, he accepted the Presidential Citizens Medal from Bill Clinton, the arch-racist who engineered the mass incarceration of young Black workers, the racist destruction of welfare, the NATO bombings of Yugoslavia, and, according to United Nations statistics, the murder of more than 500,000 children in Iraq by imposing sanctions that blocked food and medicine.

In 2005, four years after President George W. Bush invaded Afghanistan and two years after invading Iraq, the war criminal awarded Ali with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. By then, Ali had been slowed by the Parkinson’s Disease that ultimately killed him. It was a sad and telling moment when Clinton spoke at his funeral.

Paul Robeson, Unconquerable Communist

Ali’s political rise and fall recalls an earlier world-famous Black celebrity who was also vilified by the capitalist ruling class but stayed true to his anti-imperialist principles to the end: actor and singer Paul Robeson. In the 1930s, Robeson was a proud part of the international communist movement. He supported the advances made by the Soviet Union, at the time a revolutionary working-class state. He was an uncompromising fighter against racism and imperialism, and a lifetime member of the Communist Party-USA.

Called to testify before the anti-communist House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), Robeson refused to name names and was blacklisted from working in the United States. To prevent him from performing abroad, the U. S. government also took his passport. Like Ali, he lost the equivalent of millions of dollars in income for standing up for his beliefs.

The big difference is that Paul Robeson was hated by the capitalists to the end. Even today, when they may name a school or a park in his honor, the bosses refuse to tell the truth about what he stood for. Robeson was a militant communist and anti-racist to the day he died. In 1973, sick and in seclusion, he said: “Though I have not been active for several years, I want you to know

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Veteran’s Anti-Racist Politics Take Center Stage

NEW JERSEY, June 11—At the Veterans of Foreign Wars center in Irvington, New Jersey, my acting group and I performed the play, “A System of Profiling.” We portrayed the lives of the four men—Daniel Reyes, Leroy Grant, Rayshawn Brown and Keshon Lamonte—who were shot by kkkops on the New Jersey Turnpike in April 1998. The system unsurprisingly failed these Black and Latin men—within a year of finding the cops guilty, New Jersey prosecutors acquitted them of all charges. The play was meant to send the message that these men and countless others will never find justice under capitalism.

Kkkops Kill on Bosses’ Cue

The play demonstrates how, from the training of polices to the courts and the popular media, capitalism is built and maintained with racism. It doesn’t matter that these men were on their way to achieve basketball scholarships at a university in South Carolina. This system thrives on the total disregard of the lives of all working class people.

Sexism was also a theme of the play. In it, we depict how bosses permit the police to get away with abusing women. One of the kkkops abused his then girlfriend

for many years. Yet, he was allowed to keep his job!

The play stresses that we must and will fight back against racism and sexism. It ends with the four youth becoming committed fighters against the racist system, by “any means necessary.” They raise their fists in unity with the women, their attorney and the kkkop’s former girlfriend. This racist and sexist system will not divide us.

Back Drop of Racist Murders

After the play, the moderator posed the question of how to end racism. The audience was specially asked whether racism could be abolished by voting for Hillary Clinton or by fighting for a system in which racism will no longer exist. The men and women veterans in the audience agreed that voting was essential. The writer of the play, however, stressed that voting only serves to maintain the interest of the capitalist class. She pointed out the devastation that Hillary’s husband wrecked on the working class by slashing welfare—an action that decimated the neighborhood in which she worked for a school nurse in Newark, New Jersey.

To further the point that voting means replacing one war mongering capitalist stooge with another, the

writer mentioned how she supported Lyndon Johnson in the 1960s because she believed his anti-war platform, only to be disappointed with his decision to escalate the war in Vietnam. Two men, however, chimed up that “war is necessary” for the capitalists.

The question was then asked if the men, women, and children in Iraq and Vietnam asked to be killed by the U.S. bosses. They answered that war was good for the economy. There ensued a discussion as to who rules the political economy, and who benefits from those decisions. There was disagreement, especially on the need of voting to resolve problems. Our play and discussion about racism won over in the end because our group was asked by the veterans to return in August.

In getting this play off the ground, we learned that theater is a collective process from writing critiques to casting to finding a venue to directing and rehearsing. We also learned that it is a great way to highlight the ways in which the capitalist system beats us down every day. More importantly, it is a great way to bring communist politics to the masses. We will continue to use theater to let the workers know that there is a better system out there—communism.✪

Orlando Shooting: Result of Capitalist Alienation

Omar Mateen's anti-gay sexist killing in Orlando fuels the anti-Muslim racism the ruling class uses to further divide the working class.

The 49 people dead and 53 wounded at the Pulse nightclub were targets of Mateen's hatred, possibly self-loathing, of the gay and transgender working class.

This capitalist world's nature is to exploit, alienate, terrorize, and murder—all for maintaining profit and imperialist domination. It is no surprise then that Mateen had internalized the inner logic of this system. Capitalism seeks to alienate and sicken the way we relate to members of our class. The attack was years in the making and is supported by ages of sexist oppression and violence against the gay and transgender working class.

Chickens Coming Home to Roost

Hillary Clinton's odious statement reveals the ruling-class sentiment: "this is the deadliest mass shooting in the history of the United States and it reminds us once more that weapons of war have no place on our streets" (NYT, 6/13). Surely this aspiring terrorist-in-chief isn't referring to the "weapons of war" the Obama administration used in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Pakistan, Somalia, and Syria, or those used by militarized kkkops on the streets of Ferguson, Baltimore, and Brooklyn. Some ruling-class media is linking Mateen with ISIS. If that is indeed the case, where does ISIS come from? ISIS is the Frankenstein's monster of decades of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East. ISIS is a murderous offshoot of al Qaeda, which the U.S. initially funded and built ("We Created Islamic Extremism," *Salon*, 11/17/15). The U.S.

still remains the biggest world terrorist organization, with \$600 billion annual military budget.

To paraphrase Malcolm X, the U.S. bosses never foresaw that the chicken would come home to roost. While he was referring to the Kennedy Assassination—if hundreds of thousands of civilians are being killed by the imperialist war machine, like in Vietnam and today the Middle East, some will react the way Mateen did—by attacking the working class, be it ISIS or individuals like Mateen.

Workers do need to react to imperialist ruling classes around the world, but by uniting the working class—Black, Latin, Asian, white, gay, straight, men, and women—to confront and smash the bosses!

Bosses Breed Anti-Muslim Racism

The working-class youth have been fed, in addition to the vicious anti-Black racism, the fear of Muslim workers, especially since the Sept 11 attacks. Just last year, following the Paris and San Bernardino shootings the bosses' media's ramping up of anti-Muslim racism led to an increase in the attacks on Muslim workers and youth.

The bosses' racism is evident in calling the Charleston church mass shooting by white racist vigilante Dylann Roof (June 2015) an act of mental illness but that of Muslim Mateen an act of ISIS-related terrorism. This racism is bred by the bosses to drive their imperialist agenda. Patriotic hatred of Arab and Muslim workers is very useful when there are oil wars to win in the Middle East.

While the bosses push the racist idea that Muslims

are inherently dangerous, in fact, all religious movements are dangerous to the working class, because they all divert workers' natural anti-capitalist anger into the false and divisive unity of nations or religious creeds. Whether Christian, Buddhist, Jewish, or Muslim, from Pope Francis to the Ayatollah Khamenei, the cynical leaders of these movements work hand-in-hand with mass-murdering capitalist rulers to preserve the profit system. In the words of a gay protester at a multiracial rally including Muslims in New York City, "where was all this support when Christians were killing us?"

Regardless of where it stems from, terrorist violence is always anti-working class. The communist antidote and alternative is mass, revolutionary, working-class violence to seize power from the capitalist class and build an egalitarian, internationalist world. The Progressive Labor Party is organizing a movement to create such a world—a society run by workers to serve workers' needs, a society without profit or wage slavery or any form of exploitation.

Individual violence can never defeat the rulers' racism. It was the working-class masses in the Soviet Union and China and the Resistance movements that smashed the Nazi and Japanese fascists in World War II. Racism can be obliterated only by mass working-class revolutionary violence. The liberation of the gay/transgender working class is connected to the Black, Muslim, undocumented working class. Let us unite as a class! We need to organize tens of millions of workers, under the banner of the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party, to smash capitalism and build a worker-run society: communism.✊

Verizon Workers Won Reforms By Fighting, Struggle Continues

NEW YORK CITY, June 12—A red salute to the 40,000 brave Verizon workers whose six-week strike against the largest U.S. telecommunications company ended. The strikers' militancy and unity cost the company over \$200 million and gained widespread support despite a virtual total media blackout. The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party salutes the Verizon workers for their militancy and determination.

In this period, the international working class faces capitalist attacks from all sides, from racist police terror, to millions of our sisters and brothers displaced as refugees worldwide, to the growing threat of wider imperialist wars. Amid all this, the Verizon workers dared to fight, and showed a glimpse of the working class's potential to flex its muscle within a vital U.S. industry.

The misleadership of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the entire fake left are calling this a major victory. While modest, it was the workers' militancy that held the picket lines which won any reforms. However, despite what was won, whatever concessions the bosses gave up are at risk of being taken back. Capitalists stick to their golden rule: whoever has the gold makes the rules.

Victory is not in the immediate reform gains, but in the steeling of class-consciousness. In a period of relatively low class struggle, the winning is in the fighting. For the international working class, a strike's larger significance is the impact the Verizon workers had on working-class fightback. Communist PLers, and our friends at Verizon, must continue organizing and sharpening the struggle against future bosses' attacks, while organizing red study groups to win workers to fight for revolution.

What Workers Won, and Lost

Verizon underestimated the workers' willingness to fight. Some workers were able to shut down the scab supervisors doing union work. Ultimately, the four-year contracts the workers fought for and won will add 1,300 unionized call center jobs. Those call centers threatened with closing, except two, will remain open. The workers will get an 11 percent raise over four years, and 65 unionized workers at Verizon Wireless stores won their first contract. The strike also killed a proposal that would have forced workers to be relocated out of state for up to two months.



The bad news is the bulk of their raise will cover hundreds of millions of dollars in increased health care costs which the union bosses had actually agreed to before the strike. And Verizon will increase the pension 1 percent each year as an incentive to offer annual buyouts to senior workers, to be replaced by new hires whose pensions the union leadership sacrificed in the previous contract. If Verizon workers were able to see the limits of unions, and the pro-boss union misleadership, and they continue to organize towards challenging, and eventually overthrowing capitalism, then indeed they will have won.

Struggles Ahead

Under capitalism, no matter how militant the struggle and no matter how many reforms the workers can wrench from the bosses' grasp, reforms will never lead to destroying the capitalist system which daily attacks our international class. Reforms will never lead to revolution and the creation of a communist world, or the

abolishment money, borders, racism and sexism, where workers lead every aspect of society. The rank-and-file power built by the Verizon workers can grow into the seeds of a mass communist movement that can seize power and end the imperialist wars raging worldwide.

The Verizon workers have contributed to a more militant mood, reflected in the movement against racist police terror and the recent anti-Trump actions. And it could be spreading. In New York City, over 25,000 City University of New York education workers and about 15,000 Consolidated Edison utility workers have recently passed strike authorization votes. Building this movement means organizing study groups to discuss communist ideas, how to fight back on the job and to reading and selling CHALLENGE. If workers and youth are in a fighting mood, we have an opportunity to expose how the bosses use their politicians, cops and courts, and how to build the revolutionary communist PLP.✊

Juneteenth Perpetuates Racist Myths

Juneteenth has been especially pushed on the working class as a progressive holiday, perpetuating myths of democracy in is a holiday that's been celebrated in Texas since 1867. The holiday grew from the fact that slaves in Texas were not told they had been emancipated until 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

This holiday echoes the elevation of Lincoln by Obama, who was sworn into office on the Lincoln Bible, in an effort to declare his election victory the antiracist culmination of a struggle to realize American "democracy" that began with the "great emancipator" and victor of the Civil War.

The push for Juneteenth serves to perpetuate two myths:

- First, that U.S. capitalism and "democracy" has a history of continuous progress to eliminate racism, and,
- Second, the U.S. government and U.S. presidents from Abraham Lincoln to Obama have been the true representatives of anti-racism in world history.

The goal of both of these myths is to convince the working class, especially Black workers, to support U.S. imperialism. With the U.S. fighting multiple oil wars and in the midst of an economic depression, the ruling class has continued to explain its wars of empire as efforts to spread human rights and liberties around the world. As in earlier wars of empire, the U.S. ruling class hopes to hide the reality of racism behind the image of a false hero such as Lincoln or Obama. But we in the working class need to understand that racism is a fundamental part of capitalism. The capitalists and their politicians are the promoters and beneficiaries of racism, reaping profits, preventing rebellions with divide-and-conquer tactics, and mobilizing soldiers to fight the capitalist battles by demonizing the enemy. Communist revolution is the only way to end racism and smash the capitalist system that invented it and promotes it.

Racism Born in The U.S.A

The first myth can be exploded by looking at the origins and reality of racism in the contemporary United States. Racism is the product of U.S. agrarian capitalism, codified in the laws of colonial Virginia, where European and African indentured laborers had a rich history of multiracial resistance to exploitation. In order to control their rebellious workforce, landowners began imposing differential punishments on Black and white servants, enacted laws to criminalize Black and white unity, and defined slave status as passing from mother to child.

By 1705, these laws defined slaves as real estate and decriminalized the killing of a slave by an owner. Black landowners were denied the right to employ white servants, and by 1722 were denied the right to vote. This was a decision justified by the governor of Virginia as necessary to "fix a perpetual Brand on Negroes" in order to secure the institution of slavery. After independence, the U.S. Constitution protected slavery as a "domestic institution" of the member states. The fugitive slave clause and the fugitive slave acts of 1793 and 1850 required the federal government and all citizens to chase down and return runaway slaves, a law defied by the many white and Black abolitionists who participated in the Underground Railroad. Racism had been

born as a material source of super-exploitation and as the key ideology of capitalism. It would spread around the world from this point as each capitalist country defined some group—Black, Latin, immigrant—and developed new racial theories to justify super-exploitation and to divide and conquer the working class. Despite all the hype about a Black president, racist super-exploitation is the name of the game around the world. All workers are exploited, paid only enough to reproduce themselves as a labor force, but Black and Latin workers are exploited even more viciously.

The material reality of racism is manifest in unemployment figures. Official unemployment in the U.S. is 15 million people, which doesn't include another 15 million who can't find a full-time job or have given up looking. In April 2010, the official unemployment rate was 8.8percent for white, 16.5 percent for Black, and 12.6 percent for Latin. This itself doesn't tell the whole truth, since the unemployment rate for Black men in many cities like Detroit is nearly 50 percent. And racism is getting worse. In 1974 median Black incomes were 73 percent of those of white families. In 2004, a typical Black family had an income of 54 percent of a white family.

Racism Hurts ALL Workers

Racism drags down the wages of all workers, and this is clearest in the former slave states where wages for Black, white and Latin workers continue to be the lowest in the nation. For example, Boeing opened a new plant in South Carolina with hopes to lure even more Boeing production by offering low wages, no unions, and more importantly a low level of labor militancy.

Ultimately, domestic exploitation will only take capitalism so far. The bosses understand that the top-dog capitalists will be determined on the global stage, through inter-imperialist war. In the past two decades, anti-Muslim racism has been a key component of the bosses' war strategy from Iraq to Afghanistan, from Pakistan to Yemen. This enables them to kill and maim millions throughout the Middle East with little to no protest. U.S. soldiers are fueled by the anti-Muslim racism promoted by military officers and carry out racist laws passed on the floor of Congress that target Arabs and other immigrant groups specifically and workers in general.

Presidents from Lincoln to Obama understand the necessity of racism to maximize profits and to prevent workers from uniting against capitalism. They also understand that workers must be convinced to rally around the nation's flag for capitalist and imperialist war. History becomes an important weapon in how the bosses convince workers to fight for capitalism instead of in their own class interests.

Juneteenth Hides Truth of Lincoln's Racist Union 'Victory'

So how do they convince us to put up with this? Part of the story is to convince us that the politicians and the government are the key forces for change, and that other workers are the enemy or powerless. Here Juneteenth and similar holidays play a role by hiding the true history of the end of slavery: that it came as a result of the struggles of Black and white workers, not through the actions of the racist Abraham Lincoln.

When the Civil War began, Lincoln's goal was to maintain the Union for the capitalist class, not to abolish slavery or to eliminate racism. Lincoln was an open racist who declared, "I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about the social and political equality of the white and Black races." As the Civil War began in 1861, Lincoln advocated "colonizing" Black people in Africa and Central America; supported a constitutional amendment protecting slavery where it already existed; refused to enlist them into the army; and ordered continued enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act which required all citizens to return runaway slaves to their masters.

But as more enslaved Black workers fled to Union lines, many Union soldiers refused to return them to their owners, and some generals attempted to abolish slavery in the occupied slave territories. Over Lincoln's objections, Congress passed laws that confiscated slaves (property) of Confederate owners and used them as Un-

ion soldiers, but still in bondage. In September 1862, Lincoln adopted partial emancipation as a diplomatic and military tactic. In the Emancipation Proclamation, he requested that Congress appropriate funds for the deportation of freed slaves and announced that slaves in any states that continued to rebel would be freed on January 1, 1863.

This proclamation by itself freed no one. Slaves in Maryland, Delaware, Missouri or Kentucky, slave states that were loyal to the union, were not covered. Slavery was not abolished there until the ratification of the 13th amendment in December 1865, six months after Juneteenth. The proclamation could be enforced in the eleven rebellious Confederate states only if and when the Union Army arrived.

The real Liberators of Slaves

The real fight against slavery came from hundreds of slave revolts that had destabilized the system from the inside. The most famous of these are:

The Haitian rebellions that eliminated slavery and drove the French from the island in 1804

The rebellion led by Nat Turner in Virginia in 1831

The 1859 John Brown and Harriet Tubman attack on the Marine armory at Harper's Ferry, a military effort by Black and white abolitionists, which forced millions to realize that pacifism would not end slavery. During the Civil War, 180,000 slaves took up arms and joined the fight against their masters whenever the Union army neared. And in the Mississippi Valley, two-thirds of the Union army was Black, half of whom were former slaves. Others took over abandoned plantations, and divided the land among themselves. All of this worried capitalist politicians, including Lincoln, who in April 1865 was scheming to remove former Black soldiers from the nation because he feared that these disciplined men would mount a "guerilla war" against their former owners.

Fighting Racism

There is a third story hidden within the myths of U.S. anti-racism: the story of multiracial unity and fight-back, and the fact that racism has to be constantly reinvented to prevent the potential power of a unified working class. Many CHALLENGE readers are familiar with the multiracial unity of antiracist fighters like John Brown and the Black-white unity of the 1892 New Orleans general strike. This kind of action was a constant undercurrent. For example, in Galveston, TX, in the 1840s-60s the common everyday experience of poor white dockworkers and enslaved Black workers overshadowed their racial "differences." Despite the efforts of the city government to prevent mixing of Black and white workers, many rejected the bosses' racism and saw themselves as part of the same exploited class.

Other examples suggest that rather than celebrating the bosses' Juneteenth holiday, workers should celebrate our own Juneteenth. On June 14, 1919 nearly one hundred white lumber workers in Bogalusa, LA armed themselves to defend Black workers from company threats against unionizing. In unity, armed white workers safely escorted the Black workers from their homes to a union meeting. Several white workers were killed defending a Black worker and union activist who was on the run from company thugs trying to kill him.

These stories highlight the potential for multiracial unity among workers once we realize our common class interest. We must take inspiration from these examples but also recognize the limits. These battles focused mainly on efforts to unite workers across racial lines, but lacking a communist analysis, failed to attack the capitalist system that perpetuates and enforces racism.

The bosses keep racism alive in the 21st century, using holidays such as Juneteenth to keep workers divided, while hiding the story of working-class unity and fight-back. Antiracist unity poses one of the greatest threats to the bosses. Both Lincoln and Obama and every president in between understood this fact. Fighting racism is a key task for communists and the working class today. We must seize upon the history of our predecessors and build a multiracial fighting party, the PLP, to smash the racist system of capitalism once and for all.✪



U.S. Elections, see next page

Clinton: Next Imperialist-in-Chief?

Hillary Clinton is the presumed Democratic nominee, has won the final primary in D.C. and has been officially endorsed by Obama, signaling dominant finance capitalists' current choice for the next imperialist-in-chief. President Obama has also made it clear to the immobilized candidate Bernie Sanders of his role to bring more young people into the electoral process and build inner party unity for coming war and fascism.

CHALLENGE has been exposing each candidate's ruling-class ties. For the past several months, PLP has been reporting on this political circus, pointing to the question "how can the bosses fool the working class into supporting the racist, sexist, imperialist system?" The answer: preparing the working class to vote for a candidate like Hillary Clinton. There is no such thing as a good choice for the working class among these candidates—every last one of them will do everything to keep capitalism alive and well, and the workers need communism to lead a world run by and for our class.

Bern Capitalist Illusions

Sanders plays an important role of the "hopeful" candidate who could shine some light on all the oppression we feel through our daily lives. He is someone who talks about mass unemployment, someone who gives the appearance of wanting to protect the working class. He tapped into the mass disgruntlement of the working class, and leading us into the voting booths and out of the streets. His campaign feeds workers the illusion of progress and democracy, a centuries-old myth of U.S. capitalism (see article on page 6). Without communist politics and fightback, any anti-racist, anti-sexist, egalitarian-based ideas will be funneled to sustain capitalism.

Make no mistake—Sanders bowing out of the

race is not a loss for the working class. Sanders is as much of an imperialist as Obama. He backed every action Obama made during the war in Syria and Afghanistan that killed thousands, and has an even longer history of supporting U.S. imperialist wars. Thanks to Sanders, many otherwise disillusioned people are buying into reform, and eventually fascism. Sanders and Clinton strive to build all-class unity, something they desperately need to challenge arch imperialist rivals like China and Russia.

Then there is Trump—a candidate who uses workers' anger about the lack of jobs and poor economy to win them to a dangerous and anti-working class racist, sexist line, and is a beacon for racists to rally behind. He will cause millions of other workers to vote for Clinton, to make sure Trump doesn't win.

We're With the Working Class

Clinton—not the most openly gutter racist but her policies have done nothing but kill, starve, imprison, and deport Black and Latin workers in the U.S. and overseas. As fear of Trump continues to build, many workers will be misled into believing that the "better" choice is warmonger Clinton. Many pledge to be "with her," Clinton's campaign catchphrase that aims to exploit the working class's anti-sexist instincts.

No matter the candidate, each is selling its own brand of patriotism. Progressive Labor Party rejects this war-fervor tactic. We are not with her, or him. We are with the international working class.

But there is only one choice for the working class that will smash this exploitative capitalist system for good. Masses of workers must unite—Asian, Latin, Black, white, men, women, young, and old—to fight for a communist revolution!✊

Muhammad Ali

Continued from page 4

that I am the same Paul, dedicated as ever to the worldwide cause of humanity for freedom, peace and brotherhood."

Robeson had two significant advantages over Ali. First, he came of age during the heyday of the old communist movement, when the Soviet Union was a beacon for workers throughout the world. Second, Robeson was exposed to advanced political ideas and developed a class-conscious worldview that sustained him through hard times.

Here is perhaps the biggest lesson of these two courageous men: If you want to fight for a better world, you cannot do it alone. Lifelong working-class fighters must draw their strength from the masses. And as the last few decades of Ali's life showed, you can't fight racism and sexism by accommodating the ruling class.

Today, capitalism is alive and well, murdering workers by the millions worldwide in its racist, sexist, and imperialist drive for profit. But with the bosses' every new attack on our class and every step toward bigger wars for profit, the international working class is forging new fighters. Communists in Progressive Labor Party need to organize millions of workers to follow the lead of the Ferguson rebels and smash "the whole damn system." Ferguson showed what Robeson knew and Ali may never have fully understood: History is made not by a few isolated "heroes," but by multiracial masses of workers, united in anti-racist struggle.

We cannot reform the racist, sexist, warmongering, profit-seeking system of capitalism. Fight and organize the international working class for the only solution: communist revolution. Join PLP!✊

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Workers killed for asking for a raise

NYT, 5/31 — After more than 1,100 deaths exposed dangerous labor conditions in Bangladesh in 2013,....safety, labor and other issues persist...where global retailers benefit from an inexpensive work force....

...In Bangladesh,....tens of thousands of workers sew garments in buildings without proper fire exits. In Indonesia, India and elsewhere, pregnant women are vulnerable to reduced wages and discrimination. In Cambodia, workers who protested for an extra \$20 a month were shot and killed....

...The Wage Alliance...latest report...accuses Walmart of benefitting from forced labor and other abusive practices in a number of Asian countries. In Cambodia...workers at factories who make products sold at the company are required to work 10 to 14 hours a day in sweltering heat, without access to clean drinking water or breaks — conditions that have contributed to "mass fainting episodes...."

...The Alliance said that dangers persist at factories in Bangladesh, where more than 1,100 workers died in the Rana Plaza collapse, one of the deadliest industrial disasters in history.

"At this point, we do not see H&M

working in a way that would prevent another Rana Plaza"....

As of 2015, nearly 79,000 workers continued to produce garments for H&M in Bangladesh in buildings without proper fire exits....

The...Alliance's report on GAP...pointed to "sweatshop" conditions....Workers...were regularly forced into working more than 100 hours a week at poverty-level wages....

...Nath Sou, 39, who works at a garment factory near Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which supplies clothes to H&M....said she gets \$140 a month and must borrow money to pay her rent and support her family. Ms. Sou said that she could be fired for joining a labor union or protesting.

Kerrey won award for slaughter in Vietnam

NYT, 6/3 — The appointment of Senator Bob Kerrey to lead a new American-backed university in Vietnam....[its] first independent, private university...made news after President Obama announced its opening....

Kerrey admitted 15 years ago that he and the team of commandoes he led to the Mekong Delta in 1969 killed innocent women and children during a midnight raid in the village of Thanh Phong....20 civilians were killed, including 13 children and a pregnant woman. Mr. Kerrey was awarded a Bronze Star after his squad falsely reported that it had killed 21 Viet Cong guerrillas....

"I FIGURE IT'S EASIER TO FIND A WAR THAN A JOB THESE DAYS."



"I cannot look at his face," Pham Thuy Huong, 40, wrote on Facebook. "All the gruesome details of that genocide are still there...."

Mr. Kerrey was a gung-ho Navy SEAL lieutenant which led his squad, known as Kerrey's Raiders, into Thanh Phong on Feb. 25, 1969....

...To avoid giving away their position, they used knives to kill five people,...slitting the throats of an elderly couple and stabbing their three grandchildren....Mr. Kerrey helped kill the grandfather....

When they reached the main part of the village...the SEALs rounded up the women and children....Kerrey gave the order...and they opened fire.

"The baby was the last one alive [said a member of the squad]. There

were blood and guts splattering everywhere...."

Kerrey served as Nebraska's governor and senator...and....as president of the New School, a university in New York City from 2001 to 2010.

Bao Anh Thai, a lawyer...said... "Please tell me the name of any prestigious university in this world where a killer in cold blood of women and children... could be the president...."

Nguyen Duc Hien, a journalist...in Ho Chi Minh City, noted that Mr. Kerrey kept quiet about the atrocities for more than 30 years and only spoke publicly about them when journalists forced his hand.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Unitarian Congregations

SMASH RACISM!

Greetings to Unitarian Universalists gathered at the 2016 General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio.

Unitarian Universalists congregants, including the communist Progressive Labor Party members, in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, CA, and Brooklyn, NY, among others, have joined some mass, militant, and multiracial fightbacks to protest the kkkop murders of Black and Latin workers. The upsurge in participation in these movements is partly the result communists and CHALLENGE urging UU congregants to be beacons of antiracism and proponents of a communist world under the leadership of PLP.

Fighting Back in CALI

In Santa Monica, CA. our Peace & Social Justice Committee organized marches in August, September, and October to demand justice for three men murdered in Venice, CA. Brendon Glenn and Jason Davis were killed by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) kkkops; Jamal Lee Warren by a beachfront hotel owner and his security guard. After Glenn was killed May 5, 2015, hundreds of people voiced their anger at a town hall meeting, but nothing followed. We reached out to local anti-racist organizations and advocacy groups for homeless people, as well as to our friends at First UU LA, to join our protest marches on Venice Beach.

At the marches, we demanded the police release a security-camera video showing how Glenn was killed. LAPD police chief Beck says the video shows that Glenn, who was unarmed, was shot in the back by kkkop Clifford Proctor while lying on in the street. In an effort to pacify protestors Beck recommended that LA District Attorney Jackie Lacey prosecute Clifford Proctor, the LAPD cop that killed Glenn. Unsurprisingly Lacey claims she is “still investigating.” We can’t get justice under capitalism, but we are determined to not let Glenn and others die in vain. We have initiated a petition campaign to demand that Lacey prosecute Proctor, and we plan to demonstrate at her office.

In addition to participating in the marches in Venice, our People’s Liberation Unitarian Universalist Group held a march that included UUs from Santa Monica in November through our church’s neighborhood, Koreatown. This march was held a few days after the one-year anniversary of the non-indictment of Darren Wilson, the Ferguson, MO kkkop who killed Michael Brown. Our chants were militant, echoing our will to keep on fighting in the face of capitalist oppression against our brothers and sisters. One of our chants was, “Mike Brown means...Fight back! Omar Abrego means...Fight back! Kyam Livingston means... Fight back!” And fight back we will!

At a potluck dinner after the march we discussed how to further the movement against racist actions by police. A forum at First Church on the history of policing in the U.S. grew out of that discussion. This forum was a step in the right direction in understanding how policing has and will always benefited the capitalist class.

Combined action by Santa Monica and LA UUs was one impetus toward the founding of a countywide UU social justice group, jUUstice LA. We are pushing for jUUstice LA to make the fight to indict Brendon Glenn a focus for all 12 UU congregations in LA County. At the First UU, we’ve agreed to make the struggle around Brendon Glenn a key part of our work; we are making weekly speeches with our candle-of-hope ritual.

The Struggle Continues in Brooklyn

In Brooklyn, we are fighting back as well. The murder of Kyam Livingston, Shantel Davis, Kiki Gray, and Akai Gurley has spurred the working class and the communist PLP of Brooklyn into action.

In particular, members of our social justice committee has joined Kyam’s mother, Anita Neal, in monthly rallies since Kyam’s death in July 2013. These rallies have united the family, church members, and members of the West In-



Unitarian Universalists, including PLP members, bring anti-racist message to Venice Beach last October.

dian community near where Kyam lived to press for release of the video and the names of the custody officers who abused Kyam and refused her medical treatment.

We are also fighting back by leading discussions, including “The Language of Oppression, How it Hurts Us All,” and sponsoring yearly Juneteenth (a holiday to commemorate the abolishment of slavery in Texas, see page 6) celebrations. This year’s celebration, “Tapestry of Justice in Blues and Poetry,” included a song about people killed by the NYPD. Since 2001, we’ve held an annual joint dinner in solidarity with the local Muslim community. Following that example, First UU LA and Santa Monica UU joined an interfaith march in March in solidarity with the LA Muslim community.

Multiracial Unity Against Racism

The marches and rallies in LA and Brooklyn were multiracial in participation. These were visual representations of our desire to unite all members of the working class in the fight against racism. Speakers, for example, affirmed that the racist oppression and super-exploitation of non-white working people hurts and divides white workers as well. The depression of wages and social welfare for Black, Latin, indigenous, and Asian, and immigrant workers pave the way to depress the wages and fightback of the whole working class—this includes white workers. U.S. wages that average 30 percent higher for white males than Black males are still inadequate to live on. And the millions of white workers with low-paying jobs, including many college graduates, live in poverty—not privilege.

The theory of “white skin privilege” is one communists refute, though it is a prevalent belief in the UUA. This ruling-class theory does a poor job in explaining

racist divisions and oppression, but a very good job in turning people of the same class into enemies. Our main enemy is the ruling class.

At the rallies and marches, we stressed white privilege theory reinforces the capitalist drive to divide working people based on so-called “race.” A concrete example is police murder and of white men and women, such as Jason Davis. Since slavery, cops have been getting away with the murder of and brutality toward Black working people; they’ve learned they can do the same to white working people. We must unite and fight racism; not segregate and talk about racism.

The outpouring of open racism that has coalesced around U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump campaign intensifies this challenge. We must mobilize our congregations to fight back against all racism, especially the systematic racism presided over by liberals such as Obama, Clinton, and Sanders.

For the GA two years ago, we wrote a pamphlet showing why the Seven UU Principals cannot be achieved without communist revolution. You can request a copy from desafio.challenge@gmail.com.

While helping lead these anti-racist struggles, communists in PLP have the task of showing why racist police and racism in general are inherent to capitalism, and why defeating racism therefore requires communist revolution. Communism will a global system without borders run by workers and in the interests of workers. The source of racism, capitalism and profit, will be eradicated. Ask us all about it! We urge all UU members and everyone belonging to the working class to join PLP in fighting racism building a better world for the working class!✊

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